

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A cationic peptide which is capable of causing membrane disruption and which comprises ~~does not comprise acidic amino acid~~ the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 2. (Canceled) The peptide of claim 1 which does not comprise glutamic amino acid.

Claim 3. (Previously Presented) The peptide of claim 1 which has a molecular weight of less than 5 kD.

Claim 4. (Canceled) The peptide of claim 1, which comprises the amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO:1, wherein each Xaa is selected independently of one another from the group consisting of lysine (Lys or K), histidine (His or H) and arginine (Arg or R) residues.

Claim 5. (Canceled) The peptide of claim 4, which comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:6., or selected in the group of SEQ ID NO:7 to SEQ ID NO:20.

Claim 6. (Previously Presented) A complex for transferring an anionic substance of interest into a cell comprising:

- (i) at least one peptide of claim 1;
- (ii) at least one anionic substance of interest.

Claim 7. (Original) The complex of claim 6, wherein said complex further comprises:

- (iii) at least one ligand capable of cell-specific and/or nuclear targeting;
and/or
- (iv) at least one further peptide which is capable of causing membrane disruption; and/or
- (v) at least one cationic compound selected from the group consisting of cationic lipids and cationic polymers; and/or
- (vi) at least one colipid.

Claim 8. (Previously Presented) The complex of claim 6, wherein said anionic substance of interest is a nucleic acid.

Claim 9. (Original) The complex of claim 8, wherein said nucleic acid comprises at least one therapeutically useful gene sequence and at least one therapeutically useful gene sequence and elements enabling its expression.

Claim 10. (Previously Presented) The complex of claim 6, wherein the size of said complex is less than 500 nm.

Claim 11. (Original) The complex of claim 10, wherein said size is between 20 and 100 nm.

Claim 12. (Previously Presented) The complex of claim 6, wherein the ratio within said complex between the number of positive charges and the number of negative charges is between 0.05 and 20.

Claim 13. (Original) The complex of claim 12, wherein said ratio is up to 1.

Claim 14. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising the complex of claim 6 and a carrier therefor.

Claim 15. (Previously Presented) A method for curative, preventive or vaccine treatment of mammals comprising administering an effective amount of the complex of claim 6 to a patient in need thereof.

Claim 16. (Withdrawn) A method for transferring an anionic substance of interest into a cell comprising using the cationic peptide of claim 1.